SPECIAL MEETING

The meeting was held via conference call; members of the public who utilized the public call-in line will not be listed in attendance.

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Lakin, Madison County Sheriff, voiced his concerns that the information that is being discussed regarding the Sheriff’s request for compensation in the form of cash payment is misleading and incorrect. He also voiced his concern about politicizing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Major Jeff Connor, Madison County Sheriff’s Department, stated that on April 1st the Madison – St. Clair Record published an article that included erroneous statements by Chairman Prenzler and Compliance Manager John Thompson. Major Connor read aloud a press release from the Sheriff’s Office regarding email correspondence from Madison County Administrator Doug Hulme and the approach the Sheriff’s Office is taking.

Tom Gibbons, Madison County State’s Attorney, stated he sent an email to the committee regarding the Red Zone Review that indicated the States Attorney’s Office was operating over salary budget and to clarify they are operating under budget after reviewing all of the numbers. He also voiced there were errors in the calculations relating to the report and resolution for COVID-19 compensation; Mr. Gibbons noted the overtime numbers reported were not entirely related to COVID-19 and that some were from working a cold case in Jersey County. Mr. Gibbons went on to state that he bargained with the Union and provided an incentive for 2 weeks for the individuals who agreed to continue working on site.

Amy Meyer, Madison County Recorder, stated the office has been flooded with documentation pertaining to interest rate cuts and the change in economy which has resulted in overtime. She said they have provided for remote access for as much of her staff as possible and voiced that the individuals that cannot stay home should be compensated. Ms. Meyer said the document flow has never stopped and their ability to process is at a 24 hour turn around. She said they have increased the subscription services for online searches which will also increase revenue for the County in the long run.

Rick Faccin, Madison County Auditor, stated they have been following Doug Hulme’s directive and said they are not expending any taxpayer’s dollars. He said he will be giving comp-time for the individuals that have been coming in which have been operating with a skeleton crew. Mr. Faccin voiced his concern about a recent political hire and an ongoing lawsuit that is upwards of $200k in legal fees.
The following public comments were submitted via email and read aloud by Mr. Moore:

Teri Davis Newman:
I find this to be appalling. Many in Madison County are losing their jobs and these greedy government workers are using this health emergency to pad their paychecks. They should be ashamed of themselves--particularly when there are almost NO COVID-19 infected people in Madison County.

Robert G. Myers:
I agree with Chairman Prenzler. No one should benefit from this while many are out of work! It is a shameless and cowardly action on the part of those seeking extra remuneration.

Gina Shaw:
I look forward to hearing reasons why the extra pay & comp time was requested. Although I appreciate our county employees' service, my hope is that our county funds would not be taken advantage of especially in a time of national, state, & local financial distress. We need to be more frugal than ever & considerate of all fellow citizens' welfare.

Steve Springer:
It is absolutely disgraceful that Madison County public employees would even think about asking for Comp Time or Overtime pay when they are able to work! Many in the community have been forced to stay home from work and have suffered financial hardships at this time but will still be required to pay their taxes which pay county employees wages/salaries. Shame on you!

Bonnie Hartman:
Respectfully, I request that the request for extra pay for the stated Madison County Departments being discussed at this special meeting be STRONGLY OPPOSED! There are not adequate descriptive words to express how disgusting the descriptive rationale and scope of this request is at a time of a national pandemic and state-wide threat! It is beyond my comprehension as to how and why these leaders/individuals believe that their paid work deserves such compensation. My comments are not intended to take anything away from the purpose and provision of the work they are doing. It is important; it is the job they willing chose to do; it is a pay check to support their families; it is a job they can choose to accept or reject. This request is, more importantly, an insult to the many Madison County citizens who have NO work and NO pay during this crisis! This request is also an insult to the frontline healthcare professionals and support staff doing their best, often literally in the face of those who may be positive of or carriers of the COVID-19 virus, because it is the job they chose! Please defeat the proposed request!

Heather Isringhausen Gvillo:
Good morning, I am curious how many employees in each of the four county offices the additional compensation applies to? Also, if those county offices are able to provide additional compensation to employees who work in person, what does that mean for the rest of the county departments? Would any county employee then be able to make a request for comp time or more pay? Finally, it may still be too early to know, but how has the COVID-19 emergency affected the county's financial standing. For example, there was probably a significant dip in sales taxes. And do you have any recommendations on how the public can help keep the county's economy circulating (while still complying with the governor's stay-at-home order). Thank you.
PURCHASE RESOLUTION:

The following resolution was presented:


There was an in-depth discussion on the Resolution to Approve Additional Comp-Time and Benefits Outside of County Collective Bargaining Agreement by Auditor, State’s Attorney, Sheriff and Recorder during COVID-19 Response. The members of the Finance Committee along with many others took turns asking questions and voicing their concerns along with the pros and cons of the matter at hand. Please listen to the audio for the full discussion.

THERE WAS NO MOTION TO APPROVE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

*It was noted the public bridge filled up during the meeting resulting in some individuals not being able to access the meeting telephonically.

    Mr. Goggin moved, seconded by Mr. Michael to adjourn the meeting, MOTION CARRIED.

/mds